DAMAGE CAUSED TO SOMOYYA SUGAR FACTORY

439. Sri B. B. SAYANAK (Belgaum).—

Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Sugar Factory of Somayya in Sameerwadi near Mudhol in Bijapur District was burnt in the month of December 1973 by some Doctors, Advocates and Kannada speaking people;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that some Marathi speaking ladies were molested and stripped naked by the people referred in clause (*a*);

(*c*) the extent of loss suffered by the factory;

(d) whether it is a fact that six K.S.R.T.C. buses and some trucks from Sankeswar Sugar Factory were used to carry the people to set fire to the factory referred to in clause (*a*);

(*e*) the number of people arrested in this connection and the extent of property recovered?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS (Chief Minister).—

(a) Except the main Factory, other parts of the Sugar Factory at Sameerwadi were burnt on 13th December, 1973 by a mob consisting of lawyer, quack doctors and others including Kannada and Marathi speakisg people.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Approximately Rs. 75 lakhs.

(*d*) The mob forced the drivers of 5 State transport buses to carry them to the factory. No trucks of Sankeshwar Sugar Factory were used.

(*e*) 117 persons were arrested and property worth about Rs. 85,836 was recovered.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—May I ask the Chief Minister that when there was an agitation over the Maharashtra-Karnataka Border Dispute, how is it possible that the Marathi people were in the mob?

†Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—That is what has been found out.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—May I know whether it is a fact that some Marathi people were brought from Maharashtra to cut the sugarcane and that is why the Kannada people have burnt this factory?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—We have not said that Kannada people have not joined. Some Kannada people have joined. There were employees brought from outside also. There was not a kind of healthy industrial relationship at that time. That was also one of the factors. According to our report Kannada people as well as Marathi people were there.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—May I know from which place the mob forced the derivers to carry them to the factory ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—From the main road. This factory is away from the main road. When the buses were moving in the main road, they were waylaid by the mob and forced to take them.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—May I know whether the Government has taken any action against the drivers who have taken the buses to the factory ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—Drivers themselves needed protection. Does the hon. member suggest that Government should punish them ?

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—Out of 117 persons arrested, may I know how many of them are advocates and doctors, and under what sections the cases were registered ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—I think, one advocate and one or two doctors, and the Sections are 147, 148. 149, 429 and 437.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—Has it not come to the notice of the Government that the wife of the General Manager Sri Mangal Singh was made naked and paraded in the street by the mob ?

Sri D. DEVARAJ URS.—I had been to the factory, met the Managing Director and had discussions with him, and also the gentleman to whom the hon. member referred. They did not give any complaint to me. On the other hand, it was stated that the mob tried to take away the jewells, but they were prevented, and the lady was given protection later on. The statement of the hon. member that she was molested is absolutely baseless.

APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE ACCOUNTANTS AND GRAMSEVAKS.

538. Sri ABDUL KHUDDUS ANWAR (Bhadravathi).—

Will the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Village Accountants and Gramsevaks appointed during the years 1970-71, 1971-72 in the State (Division wise information may be furnished) ;